

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Addressing first the objection to the oath, that objection is believed to be improper. The filed document is a Japanese language *declaration* that is believed to be proper and not require authentication by a diplomatic or consular officer. Applicants have filed similar Japanese language declarations in many cases and such declarations have always been deemed to be proper.

Claims 15-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1-14 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 15-24 are presented herein. Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,732,230 to Cullen et al. (herein "Cullen") in view of U.S. patent 6,081,341 to Kim.

Addressing the rejection of claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Cullen in view of Kim, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

It is initially noted that claims 1-14 are canceled by the present response and new claims 15-24 are presented for examination. New claims 15-24 have been written to clarify certain features in the claims.

More particularly, according to the claims as currently written an image of a document produced using an application program is displayed on a screen for a preview by using a printer driver that is booted based on a command, see for example steps S1-S2 in Figure 2. A user can form an image on a screen by inserting at least one of a text, an image, and a graphic into the image displayed on the screen, see for example Figure 1B and steps S13-S15 in Figure 2. With such an operation a user can easily and simply edit an image on a screen by manipulation of a printer driver, see for example step S17 in Figure 2.

Applicants respectfully submit that such features now clarified in new claims 15-24 clearly distinguish over Cullen in view of Kim.

Cullen is directed to a system for manipulating image fragments so that image processing devices such as copiers, fax machines, and scanners may efficiently process oversized images (Abstract). Kim is directed to a multi-function apparatus and appears to be cited in the Office Action to only teach a printing image forming apparatus.

However, applicants respectfully submit that the teachings of Cullen in view of Kim do not meet the features now clarified in the claims, and in particularly the teachings in Cullen and Kim do not perform manipulation of an image on a screen for a preview.

The Office Action cites Cullen at column 7, lines 4-16 to teach a screen displaying an image on a screen as a preview. However, applicants note at that portion Cullen discloses a display operation, but Cullen does not disclose performing an editing of the image at a time it is displayed on the screen during a preview.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit that each of new claims 15-24 distinguish over the previously applied art to Cullen in view of Kim.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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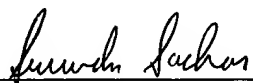
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